



The City of Pittsfield, Massachusetts

Department of Community Development

Deanna L. Ruffer
Director

James M. Ruberto
Mayor

City of Pittsfield Comments Wind Energy Potential on State Owned Lands EOEEA Listening Session June 24, 2009

The City of Pittsfield whole heartedly supports the Commonwealth's interest to develop wind resources on state owned land. In fact, Mayor Ruberto is preparing a letter to Secretary Bowles encouraging the Commonwealth to give priority to wind development in the Pittsfield State Forest. We believe this location can serve as an excellent test site for wind development on state owned land.

At the same time, we believe such development should:

- Provide a substantive role for local regulation and approval;
- Be undertaken in a manner which is appropriate in scale to ensure a balance between the protection of public open space and the development of wind resources; and
- Provide the opportunity for the host community or its designated economic development entity to benefit from the resulting green energy resource being located in its community, including the opportunity to be a party to the Power Purchase Agreement and direct the revenues and/or green energy credits to offset the high electricity costs in the Berkshires. In fact, the Mayor will be proposing to the Secretary that the William Stanley Business Park be the beneficiary of such economic benefits for any turbines sited in the City, providing an exciting incentive for companies to locate in this business park in the center of the City.

While a separate matter, we feel it is important to simultaneously engage in a substantive dialogue about the proposed Wind Siting Reform Act (H. 3065 and S. 1504).

Specifically:

- We believe it is unnecessarily burdensome to be required to establish a separate municipal siting board for wind development. Rather, we believe existing city boards are quite capable of conducting the appropriate local permitting. As one of the first communities to embrace 43D Permit Streamlining, we are confident that the necessary boards can and will coordinate permitting and regulatory approvals appropriately and will make timely decisions on any wind development proposed within the community.
- We also feel that the establishment of clear siting standards is critical and needs to be completed as quickly as possible. At the same time, our preference is for these standards to ultimately be approved by the Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs.
- Finally, we endorse the concept of host community fees. As previously stated, the Mayor will be making a proposal to the Secretary proposing that host communities be given the opportunity to realize an economic development benefits from the siting of turbines in their community.

Thank you for your time and willingness to listen to our perspectives. We look forward to additional opportunities to work as a partner with the Commonwealth on the development of renewable energy resources in our community.

Deanna L. Ruffer
Director